July 25, 2024 | Flash Brief

Israel Recovers Bodies of Five Hostages in Gaza

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Latest Developments

The bodies of five Israeli hostages in Gaza who were seized by Hamas terrorists during their October 7 onslaught in Israel have been recovered, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) **announced** on July 24. The five — Maya Goren and IDF personnel Master Sgt. (Res.) Oren Goldin, Staff Sgt. Tomer Ahimas, Sgt. Kiril Brodski and Sgt. Maj. (Res.) Ravid Aryeh Katz — had been declared dead in the immediate wake of the Hamas atrocities, having been murdered during the assault and their bodies subsequently taken to Gaza. Their remains were discovered by IDF troops in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis and immediately returned to Israel.

"There are now thought to be 111 hostages in Gaza, including the remains of 39 confirmed dead by the IDF, out of the 251 people abducted during the Hamas onslaught nearly 300 days ago," *The Times of Israel* **noted**.

Expert Analysis

"The recovery of the bodies of five more hostages in Gaza is an important achievement of the recent IDF operation in Khan Younis. It once again illustrates the macabre and brutal tactics of Hamas. Hamas kidnapped numerous bodies of Israelis slain on October 7, hoping to use them to pressure Israel into a deal that would enable Hamas to retain control of Gaza and declare October 7 a success." — ***Seth J. Frantzman**, FDD Adjunct Fellow*

"Intelligence gathered on the battlefield likely had a significant impact in locating the bodies of five Israeli hostages taken by Hamas and its allies on October 7. This highlights the importance of ground forces in countering Hamas and other terrorist groups, as they are essential in destroying terrorist infrastructure and uncovering vital information that can lead to the rescue of the hostages who remain in Hamas captivity." — ***Joe Truzman**, Senior Research Analyst at FDD's Long War Journal*

Israel Continues Operations in Three Parts of Gaza

The IDF continued its **operations** against terrorists in Gaza on July 24 and July 25. In Khan Younis, 50 terrorist sites were struck. The Israeli Air Force also carried out airstrikes to support ground operations in Rafah and the Netzarim corridor. In addition, the IDF **said** that its 401st Armored Brigade "has been conducting precise, intelligence-based operations against terrorist infrastructure and operatives in Tel al-Sultan and Shabura in the Rafah area. During scans in the area, the troops located a tunnel shaft, a large number of weapons, and night vision equipment inside a children's bedroom in a civilian building." The Khan Younis operation is aimed at removing terrorist infrastructure in areas that were previously declared a humanitarian zone. In Rafah, the IDF has been operating since May to eliminate the Hamas presence near the border with Egypt.

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